Future scientists advance to national level

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Science Bowl winners represent NM in Washington, D.C.

A team from Los Alamos bested 39 other teams from around New Mexico in the 10-hour New Mexico Regional Science Bowl, held recently at Albuquerque Academy. The team went on to represent New Mexico in the 22nd Annual Department of Energy (DOE) National Science Bowl.

In addition to their travel expenses, the team also won $5,000 for their school. The team consists of students, Alexander Wang, Micha Ben-Naim, Scott Carlsten, Lorenzo Venneri and Kevin Gao, and Coach, Paolo Venneri.

Albuquerque Academy took second place and La Cueva High School in Albuquerque placed third in the "Jeopardy!"-style event. During the competition, students are asked

challenging questions about science topics such as astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, math, trigonometry, and calculus.

"These kids are very well-versed in math and science," said Amy Tapia, Community Involvement manager at Sandia National Laboratories, one of the co-sponsors of the event along with Los Alamos National Laboratory. "It seems what sets the winning team apart from the rest of the competition is their math skills – it is so great to see students so passionate about STEM subjects."

STEM education focuses on science, technology, engineering and math disciplines. DOE officials sponsor competitions such as science bowls to encourage and recognize the next generation of scientists and engineers.